

HOUSE No. 2034

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others relative to authorizing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue a Democracy in Action distinctive license plate. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan
Martin J. Walsh
Alice K. Wolf

Deborah D. Blumer
Matthew C. Patrick

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by adding the following section:—
3 Section 31. (a) There shall be established and set up on the
4 books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the
5 Democracy Fund. There shall be credited to said fund revenues
6 received from the sale of Democracy in Action distinctive regis-
7 tration plates and a state supplemental allocation in such amount
8 that the yearly revenues reaches, but does not exceed \$1,000,000;
9 interest earnings thereon issued pursuant to subsection (d) of
10 section 2E of chapter 90.
11 (b) The secretary of state shall be the trustee of all amounts
12 credited to the Democracy Fund, Amounts credited to the Com-
13 monwealth Security Trust Fund and interest earnings thereon shall
14 be available for expenditure and not subject to appropriation at the
15 direction of the secretary of state for the following purposes:
16 (i) for providing grants to local community-based organizations
17 engaged in voter registration and/or civic education efforts;
18 (ii) for providing grants to non-partisan statewide organizations
19 that sponsor or undertake voter education, voter outreach and/or

20 voter registration efforts; and (iii) for grants to public schools to
21 develop and implement civic education and/or civic engagement
22 programs targeted to students of said public schools.

1 SECTION 2. E of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following subsection:—

4 (d) The registrar shall furnish, upon application, to the owners
5 of private passenger motor vehicles distinctive registration plates
6 which shall display on their face a design celebrating democracy
7 and civic engagement. Said design shall be by the registrar in
8 consultation with the secretary of state. There shall be a fee of not
9 less than \$40 for such plates in addition to the established regis-
10 tration fee for private passenger motor vehicles, such fee being
11 payable at the time of registration of such vehicle and at each
12 renewal thereof. The portion of the total fee remaining after the
13 deduction of the costs directly attributable to the issuance of such
14 plates shall be deposited in a registry retained revenue account
15 and of the remaining portion of such fee, 100 per cent shall be
16 deposited in the Democracy and Civic Engagement Fund Estab-
17 lished in section 31 of chapter 9.